

Improving Veterans Services

As the Chair of the Veterans Affairs and Military Construction Appropriation Subcommittee, Chet has fought hard to expand services at the Waco VA Hospital after a federal report targeted the site for closure in 2003. Since then, Edwards has worked with VA officials to:

- Secure \$49 Million dollars in additional construction funding to expand the Mental Health Center of Excellence, blind rehabilitation program, long term care, long term psychiatric care, and improve campus infrastructure at the Waco VA.

- Convince the VA to place the world's most powerful mobile MRI unit at Waco so researchers can learn more about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) at the Waco VA and Ft. Hood

- Fund \$7.32 million to a joint partnership between the Waco VA, Ft. Hood, and Texas A&M University to study PTSD.

- Worked to fund the VA system at historical levels, creating 100 new claims processors at the Waco VA Regional Office and over 100 new employees at the Waco VA Hospital.

Supporting a Central Texas Defense Industry

Chet has been a strong supporter of L-3 Communications, Waco's largest private employer. He has supported the Joint Cargo Aircraft after FY09 funding was cut dramatically in addition to supporting EP-3E surveillance aircraft program. These aircraft are heavily engaged in collecting intelligence in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as border patrol in the United States, providing vital information to troops in the field and law enforcement

Waco Mammoth Site

Chet has worked closely with the City of Waco and Baylor University to ensure the preservation

of rare collection of Mammoth bones discovered along the Bosque River in 1978. He is currently working to pass legislation designating the Waco Mammoth Site as a unit of the National Park Service.

Supporting Rural Health Care

Chet is a member of the Rural Health Care Coalition and is dedicated to strengthening our rural hospitals to ensure that they continue to serve Central Texas families and seniors. He has supported the doctors, staff and patients at Goodall-Witcher Hospital in Clifton by renovating and adding space to the acute care facility and helping in the purchase of a digital mammography machine to aid in the detection of breast cancer.

FM 933 expansion at White Bluff

When local leaders and White Bluff residents expressed safety concerns on FM933, Chet secured about \$200,000 so TXDOT could widen the road, adding a safe turn lane near White Bluff.

Baylor University

Chet has worked with Baylor University and Texas State Technical College to implement key research initiatives and support workforce development. In 2009, Chet secured \$196,000 towards the Baylor Advanced Research Institute, in partnership with TSTC-Waco will establish research related training experiences for undergraduate and graduate students in the leading fields of science, engineering and technology.

In 2005, Chet funded a Baylor-led study of the salinity levels at Lake Whitney as a first step towards making the lake an alternative source of drinking water for Central Texas.

Furthermore, with Chet's help, the Baylor Language and Literacy Center is assessing the relationship between language and reading and helping to improve reading ability and comprehension for young children.

Limestone County Drug Enforcement

Chet is concerned about the pervasive spread of drugs in rural Texas and a \$150,000 grant will help Limestone County Law Enforcement agencies coordinate to investigate drug production and patrol our streets and schools in Limestone County.

Lake Whitney

Whitney Lake is an important source of flood control, recreation and hydropower generation for all of Central and North Texas. As Vice Chair of the House Energy and Water Appropriation Subcommittee, Chet announced that Lake Whitney received \$18 million in federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for needed improvements this year.

Chet has worked with the Army Corps of Engineers to re-open parks after devastating floods in 2007 so that families could enjoy boating, camping and fishing along the Lake as soon as possible. Additionally, he's made critical investments to expand Kimball Bend Park and prevent the Corps of Engineers from closing Walling Bend Park.

He has also secured \$4.4 million to upgrade power generation technology at the Whitney Dam that helps supply peak energy to Central Texas homes at a low cost.

Paul Quinn Campus

Since 2003, Edwards has secured nearly \$1.4 million to construct an indoor pool, parking, and multipurpose center on the redeveloped campus to improve educational, and recreational activities in East Waco.

GEAR-UP

In collaboration with Hill and Bosque County school districts, and the Region 12 Education Service Center Chet has helped support GEAR-UP, a comprehensive, collaborative initiative focused on preparing at-risk students academically and socially for college. GEAR UP serves as a community catalyst to assure an increase in students who pursue advanced and enrichment courses pass the state exam, and continuing their education beyond the high school level.

Bosque County Water pipeline

Chet has helped to expand surface water availability in Bosque County in a joint partnership between the cities of Clifton and Meridian. The new water pipeline between the two cities will ensure a stable source of water that will support residential use and improve economic development.

Groesbeck City Park

The City of Groesbeck, the Groesbeck Chamber of Commerce and other local partners approached Chet about assisting in funding improvements to the City Park. A important meeting place for families across Limestone County and a key economic development project for Groesbeck, the park will add new park equipment, a walking trail, additional lighted baseball fields and a disc golf course. In addition to the federal grant, funding was raised through donations by the city of Groesbeck, the Groesbeck Chamber of Commerce, business owners and residents.

Lake Waco

Chet feels that Lake Waco is an immense asset to our local area and provides an essential recreational opportunity for working families in Central Texas. He has worked in collaboration with local stakeholders to support innovative solutions as part of his ongoing efforts to protect and improve water quality at Lake Waco.

- Chet has also included \$10 million for a North Bosque River clean-up plan designed to improve water quality at Lake Waco under the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA); which became law in November of 2007. The plan authorizes federal funding for Army Corps of Engineers clean-up efforts in the watershed for the first time.

- In response to heavy flooding in the Spring and Summer of 2007, Congressman Edwards worked diligently with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that parks and recreational areas along the lake would reopen as quickly as possible following the return of normal lake levels. Congressman Edwards included about \$1 million in supplemental emergency aid to help the Army Corps address this disaster situation. Chet feels that Lake Waco is an immense asset to our local area and provides an essential recreational opportunity for working families in Central Texas.

- Congressman Edwards was also honored to gather with local fishing enthusiasts at Reynolds Creek Park in October of 2007 to open a designed fishing park. After initially hearing complaints from constituents about the lack of lake access, Chet contacted the Army Corps of Engineers to look for possible solutions. In response, Congressman Edwards, local Army Corps officials and area fisherman worked together successfully to open Reynolds Creek to year-round access.